HANCOCK'S HALF HOUR RADIO SERIES (the original scripts)

Series 1. Episode 2. THE DIAMOND RING

TONY HANCOCK

With

MOIRA LISTER, BILL KERR & SIDNEY JAMES

In

" HANCOCK'S HALF HOUR "

No. 2

Dramatis Personae

Tony Hancock (a waif) ……Mr. Anthony Aloysius St. John Hancock II

Moira Lister (Tony's girlfriend) …… Miss. Moira Lister

Bill Kerr (Tony's best friend) …… Mr. Bill Kerr

Sidney James (a friend?) …… Mr. Sidney James

The Constable and the Judge …… Mr. Kenneth Williams

INCIDENTAL MUSIC COMPOSED BY WALLY STOTT
And recorded by the BBC REVUE ORCHESTRA,
Conducted by HARRY RABINOWITZ

SCRIPT BY : RAY GALTON & ALAN SIMPSON
ANNOUNCER : ADRIAN WALLER

PRODUCED BY - DENNIS MAIN WILSON

REHEARSALS: FRIDAY 5th NOVEMBER 1954: 2.00pm. Cast Read Through
LISTENING ROOM

SATURDAY 6th NOVEMBER 1954: 10.00am. CAST - CAMDEN

RECORDING: SATURDAY 6th NOVEMBER 1954: 12.30 - 1.15pm. CAMDEN

TRANSMISSION: TUESDAY 9th NOVEMBER 1954: 9.30 - 10.00pm. LIGHT & GOS

REPEATS: SATURDAY 13th NOVEMBER 1954: 10.30 - 11.00am. GOS
SUNDAY 14th NOVEMBER 1954: 3.15 - 3.45pm. GOS

THIS IS THE BBC LIGHT PROGRAMME

GRAMS: "HANCOCK OPENING" - PART ONE

ADRIAN: We present Tony Hancock with Moira Lister, Bill Kerr and Sidney James in…….

GRAMS: "HANCOCK OPENING" - PART TWO

TONY: (ALL EXCITED - BREATH) "Hancock's Half Hour".

GRAMS: "HANCOCK OPENING" - PART THREE

ADRIAN: London is probably the largest centre of commerce in the world. Each day thousands of merchants, bankers and stockbrokers pour into the City, handling millions of pounds. And now Tony Hancock and Bill Kerr have joined these tycoons. Yes, for the past week Tony and Bill have been trudging through the City determined to make their fortunes.

GRAMS: THEME UP

EFFECTS: (STREET NOISES.)

TONY: Penny for the Guy - penny for the Guy. Remember, remember the fifth of November. Good health lady. Penny for the Guy. You sir … remember the gunpowder plot. Blimey it'd take gunpowder to get some of their hands out of their pockets, straight it would..

BILL: (SLIGHTLY OFF MIKE) Tony.

TONY: What?

BILL: Let's go home.

TONY: Go home? We've only been out a couple of hours.

BILL: I know .. but i'm getting fed up sitting in this pram.

TONY: Stop moaning - and put your mask back on.

Bill: It <u>is</u> on.

TONY: Well sit still ugly, here's some people coming. (CALLS) Penny for the Guy. Spare a copper for a poor lad who's dad's on strike and can't afford to buy him any fireworks. Come along now, penny for the Guy. I ain't asking for half a bar, I ain't even asking for a sprat .. just one copper coin of the realm. You sir - you look a right mug .. No!!! Come back Sir .. Madam! Come back …. (CALLS AFTER THEM) … You mean stingy lot! Know your type! Tax dodgers!

BILL: Let's face it Tub - you're not fooling anybody. You look stupid in that rig out.

TONY: What's wrong with it?

BILL: You're much too old for short trousers.

TONY: I'm not.

BILL: Well your legs are. And another thing - where did you get that blazer and that silly hat?

TONY: (OUTRAGED DIGNITY) Silly hat? How dare you. I'm very proud of this hat. It's me old school hat. The one I was expelled from.

BILL: But it's a girl's hat.

TONY: So that's why they expelled me. Now come on, don't let's give up. Penny for the Guy! Help a poor starving lad. A mere copper will suffice.

BILL: You're in luck - here's one coming.

KENNETH: (CONSTABLE) Hello hello hello -

TONY: Goodbye goodbye goodbye.

KENNETH: Just a minute - what do you think you're doing?

TONY: Well you know how it is officer. Guy Fawkes Day. Just collecting a few pennies for some fireworks … like all the other kids.

KENNETH: How old are you?

TONY: Twelve.

KENNETH: You're a big boy for twelve aren't you?

TONY: School milk.

KENNETH: Not so much old buck. You're obstructing the pavement. Now get moving - and take that horrible bundle of moth eaten rags with you.

BILL: Listen Mac, this is the last thing between me and a nudist colony.

KENNETH: Who said that?

TONY: Me …. Threw me voice.

KENNETH: Well, now throw it a bit further and join it. Off me beat …. Come on - before I run you in.

TONY: (NARKED) Alright, alright, we're going - no need to shout.

KENNETH: (SLIGHTLY OFF MIKE. CALLS) And don't let me catch you round here again.

TONY: (SHOUTS) Big feet!

KENNETH: (WAY OFF MIKE) Why you … Come back!

TONY: (SHOUTS) Rotten hat!

KENNETH: (WAY OFF MIKE) Come back! Stop!

EFFECTS: (POLICE WHISTLE OFF MIKE)

TONY: Quick - up the alley. Shove the pram at him.

EFFECTS: (LONG POLICE WHISTLE OFF MIKE. CUT DEAD BY TERRIFIC CRASH AS PRAM COLLIDES WITH POLICEMAN)

KENNETH: (OFF MIKE. YELLS)

BILL: Got him!

TONY: (LAUGHS) He's fallen into the pram.

BILL: (LAUGHS) Look at them going down Ludgate Hill!

TONY: He's just passed Flint of the Flying Squad. Come on, scarper before some bogey reinforcements arrive.

GRAMS: " BACK TO TONY'S HAPPY"

EFFECTS: (DOOR OPEN & SHUT)

TONY: "There's No Place Like Home".... Home at last. They'll never catch us now. Quick, lock the door and draw the curtains.

BILL: Right.

EFFECTS: (LOUD TEARING OF PAPER)

BILL: Sorry Tub - I've torn them.

TONY: I'm not surprised, the brown paper's not what it used to be. Switch the light on.

BILL: Alright - give us a shilling for the gas meter.

TONY: Give you a shilling? What's wrong with the one that's already in there.

BILL: The cotton broke.

TONY: Never mind, get the candles out.

BILL: Candles?.... Gas? What a place to live in.

TONY: There's nothing wrong with this house. Hundred and fifty years old and still as good as the day the Zeppelin bombed it. Anyway it's <u>my</u> house. Nobody asked you to lodge here. If you don't like it you can get out.

BILL: Alright .. but I'm warning you - if I go, I'm taking all my furniture with me.

TONY: You leave that ashtray where it is.

BILL: You wouldn't speak to me like this if I paid my rent.

TONY: Rent? Blimey yes - rent. The landlord will be round collecting tomorrow. It's a millstone round me neck, this rent. Three and eleven a week to find. It's dragging me under - I can't go on …. (BREATH) ….

BILL: Don't worry Tub - you'll be able to pay the rent. Let's see how much we made at this Guy Fawkes racket.

TONY: Ah yes - good lad. Where's the hat?

BILL: Don't forget, half the takings are mine.

TONY: Alright, alright. Come on - empty it all out on the table.

EFFECTS: (CLINK OF ONE COIN ON TABLE. VERY LONG PAUSE. EIGHT SECONDS. CLINK OF ANOTHER COIN)

TONY: Thank goodness - I thought there was going to be a fight.

BILL: Tuppence! Tuppence! And we were out for four hours. It's no use Tub, we'll just have to go out to work.

TONY: How dare you mention that word in this house. In front of me. Me, what comes from one of England's oldest lines of layabouts. My father never worked in his life - his father never worked - and his father before him never worked…. And if I ever have any children -

BILL: Yes?

TONY: They're going to work … keep their old dad. Not this lad though.

BILL: But Tub, I like to eat sometimes.

TONY: Don't worry, something will turn up.

BILL: Yeah - my toes.

TONY: Are you sure there's nothing else in that hat of mine?

BILL: No … not even the lining.

TONY: Oh, sling it away - it's a rotten old hat anyway.

EFFECTS: (SIREN OFF. NOISE TO INDICATE SMALL SOLID OBJECT IN HAT STRIKING CUPBOARD DOOR)

TONY: Hallo, that's a funny noise for a hat to make.

BILL: There's something in it.

TONY: It's mine, what is it?

BILL: Just a minute ….. there 's something caught under the … band….. and .. ah - here it is.

TONY: How much? Threepenny bit? Tanner? Can't be a bob.

BILL: No, it's not money.

TONY: You can have it.

BILL: it's a diamond ring.

EFFECTS: (LOUD THUDS & CLANGS & GENERAL FIGHT NOISES AS TONY LAYS INTO BILL WITH HEAVY OBJECT)

BILL: (GROANS' YELLS & OTHER EXCLAMATIONS. ENDING WITH FINAL GROAN)

TONY: (GRUNTS WITH BILL) (PAUSE) I think I'll have to get it altered.

BILL: (GROANS) Where am I? What happened?

TONY: You fainted …… then as you fell forward, you hit your head on my cricket bat.

BILL: That's not how I remembered it. Where's that diamond ring?

TONY: Don't you remember - you gave it to me just after you passed out.

BILL: Well you can't keep it - it's not yours.

TONY: I'm not going to keep it. I'm going to give it to one of my relatives.

BILL: Who?

TONY: Uncle. I wonder how much I'll get for it.

BILL: With your record about three years. Haven't you thought how it got there? It must have fallen off some dame's hand when she threw a penny in the hat. We'll have to take it along to the Police Station and give it to the Sergeant.

TONY: It wouldn't fit him.

BILL: Look stupid, with a stone this size,this ring must be worth a fortune. There's bound to be a reward offered for it - so we cash in - and nothing to worry about from the Police.

TONY: At last ….. Legal lob. You're right. Come on - we'll go and hand it in at the Police Station straight away.

EFFECTS (KNOCK ON DOOR)

MOIRA: (OFF MIKE) Anybody in?

BILL: It's Moira.

TONY: (CALL) In here Moira.

EFFECTS: (DOOR OPEN)

MOIRA: Hallo boys, I was just passing and … oh, are you going out?

TONY: Yes - we're just going down to the Police Station.

MOIRA: What for? You don't have to report till next week. Tony, you haven't been selling those Irish Sweepstake tickets again have you?

TONY: No - you know they're not legal in this country.

MOIRA: The one's you sell aren't even legal in Ireland.

TONY: It's nothing to do with that.

MOIRA: Then why are you going down there?

TONY: It's a long story. You see this morning … well … Bill and me were .. er .. how can I put it … we were … well .. look, before I go any further, have a look at this.

MOIRA: Why, what a beautiful engagement ring.

TONY: Not bad, is it? Well anyway, as I was saying -

MOIRA: Tony darling - what a lovely surprise. I had no idea you felt this way.

TONY: You see … me and Bill were - Eh?

MOIRA: Oh, bless you.

TONY: Somebody sneeze?

MOIRA: Aren't you going to kiss me?

TONY: Certainly. (QUICK KISS) … So anyway, there we were standing on the pavement …

MOIRA: (DREAMY) Mrs. Hancock …

TONY: Mum? Where? I thought she was at the dogs tonight.

MOIRA: When are they putting up the bans?

TONY: Oh, they're up. She has to sneak in the back way. Anyway, you see this ring ..

MOIRA: It fits perfectly. I can't wait till you put the other one on my finger.

TONY: … Me and Bill were standing there minding our own business, when this crowd of people comes along - there were hundreds …

MOIRA: How many children do you want?

TONY: … about fifteen of them. So then this copper comes along …

MOIRA: Just wait until I tell all the girls that I'm going to get married.

TONY: … and he says "Now move along there" and … (PAUSE) …. Pardon?

MOIRA: I said just wait until I tell the girls that I'm going to get married.

TONY: Are you? Congratulations, I didn't know. Well well well, who'd have thought. Who's the lucky man?

MOIRA: Why you of course.

TONY: Oh, I see, well in that case I …. <u>ME</u>???

MOIRA: Yes. That's what a man usually gives a girl an engagement ring for.

TONY: Engagement … that's not what I … I didn't mean to … you see that ring … it doesn't belong to … I was trying to tell you, it … and … oh dear. Look Moira I -

BILL: (LA DE DA'S - "HERE COMES THE BRIDE")

TONY: (VERY ANNOYED) Shut up.

BILL: (GUFFAWS) And as the bride and bridegroom left the church, they passed under a Guard of Honour formed by the Metropolitan Police with an archway of crossed truncheons.

TONY: Do you want me to play cricket with your head again?

MOIRA: Tony, I must go and break the news to my family.

TONY: No, no don't -

MOIRA: (BRUSHING HIM ASIDE) Where's the phone?

TONY: No, look Moira please ….

BILL: In the hallway, Moira.

TONY: No, you can't you … oh blimey, I'm in it again. Right in it.

EFFECTS: (DIALING OFF MIKE)

TONY: What am I going to do now? Must get that ring back. I'll tell her it was all a mistake.

BILL: And then she'll sue you for breach of promise.

TONY: You're enjoying this aren't you?

MOIRA: (OFF) Hallo? Hallo - father? It's Moira. Father, what do you think? I've just got engaged. Isn't it wonderful! Tony Hancock. TONY HANCOCK. Yes, yes - of course you've met him. No …. No - the one you set the dogs on. Yes. He's going to be an in law. In law, not outlaw.

TONY: That's her old man. Old mousetrap wallet.

MOIRA: (OFF) Yes father - of course I'm in my right mind. Yes of course Tony can support me. He's going to get a job. Father? Father? Hallo - father? Oh, Mother. Father's what? Fainted? But all I said was that Tony's going to get a job. (PAUSE) Mother? Hallo - Mother? Mother?

BILL: (SINGS) Oh, there was I waiting at the church …

TONY: (ANGRY) Belt up. And you can take that smirk off your face - you're in this just as much as I am cobber. If we don't get that ring back to the Police, it's quite on the cards that you and me will be taking up sculpture lessons … in a dirty great big quarry - so start thinking.

BILL: I've got it. Ask Moira for the ring back - make some excuse - then we get a cheap paste duplicate made, give <u>that</u> back to Moira, take the real one down to the Police Station and collect the reward.

TONY: I thought that sort of idea would come from you. Typical product of the fully trained criminal mind. Well done. Here - wait a minute though - I'm still lumbered with the wedding.

BILL: A small price to pay. Moira's a very beautiful girl.

TONY: It's not her I'm worried about - it's her old man. He don't like me. He's got those great big dogs. The only time they get fed is when I go round there. Every weekend, four and a half pounds of raw Hancock.

BILL: So what? You've got enough there to supply the Battersea Dogs Home.

TONY: Good lad.

BILL: We've got to try and persuade Moira to lend that ring to us. Quiet now, here she comes.

MOIRA: (COMING ON MIKE) You know, I can't understand it. I was just talking to Mother and Father on the phone and they both fainted.

TONY: Why, what did you say?

MOIRA: Oh, nothing much - I only told them when we're married you'll have to get a job.

EFFECTS: (BODY SLUMPS TO FLOOR)

MOIRA: Tony, Tony, speak to me. Tony. Bill - quickly - the smelling salts. Tony, Tony … etc.

GRAMS: " TIME & MOVEMENT THROUGH TOWN "

<u>CROSSFADE TO</u>

EFFECTS: (FOOTSTEPS ON PAVEMENT)

BILL: Moira sure was awkward about giving that ring back Tub.

TONY: Yes. I didn't think we were going to get it. Good job you insisted on shaking hands with her before we left. Now where are we going to get this paste ring made?

BILL: Well …. I know a guy …

TONY: Who?

BILL: Sidney.

TONY: Not Smoothtalk Sidney James?

BILL: Yes.

TONY: No.

BILL: But Tub -

TONY: No - the man's a crook. Every time we have dealings with him we get caught.

BILL: How can he twist us this time?

TONY: He'll think of a way.

BILL: Look - Sidney's our only hope. He makes the finest fake jewellery in London. Lady Barnett gets all her earrings from him.

TONY: Alright - where do we find him?

BILL: He's just opened a jewellers shop.

TONY: Who's was it?

BILL: <u>His</u>. It's along here somewhere.

TONY: Jeweller's shop? He was an estate agent last week. What happened?

BILL: Oh, the bottom fell out of that.

TONY: It wouldn't happen if he put floors in.

BILL: Here's his shop.

EFFECTS: (DOOR OPENS> TINKLE OF BELL)

MOIRA: (BELLIGERENT COCKNEY HAG) Hallo - what do you want?

TONY: Good afternoon young woman … er … you are a woman aren't you?

MOIRA: Yes - don't let the cigar fool you.

BILL: Wait a minute - I'd recognise that orange, black and yellow hair anywhere - Bicycle Chain Bertha.

MOIRA: Billy! Billy the Kerr! I haven't seen you since that broken bottle party on Clapham Common.

TONY: You two know each other?

BILL: Know each other? In the war Bertha used to run a guest house for deserters.

MOIRA: Yes - many a breakfast I gave you - eh Billy?

BILL: Ixnay Bertha please. What are you doing in the jewellery business Berth?

MOIRA: Sid asked me to work behind the counter. He says it adds a touch of respectability to the joint.

BILL: Quite a business you've got here Berth - that window's loaded with diamonds. Where did you get 'em all?

MOIRA: I ain't sayin' - but for every rock in our window, there's a brick in somebody else's. Say Billy - who's the overweight Teddy Boy?

BILL: A friend of mine - Tony - Hancock.

MOIRA: What mob is he with - the Elephant Gang? Now what can I do for you?

TONY: We want to see Mr. James.

MOIRA: He's on the phone at the moment. I'll go and tell him you're here.

EFFECTS: (KNOCK ON DOOR)

SIDNEY: (OFF MIKE) It's open.

EFFECTS: (DOOR OPEN)

MOIRA: Sid - there's two people to see you.

SIDNEY: (ON MIKE) Quiet Bertha - I'm on the phone. Look Lou - it's like I told you. I don't know where the ring is. I was in the old girl's bedroom going through her jewel box … when the door opens and in she comes. I thought she was watching Television .. but she decided to sleep upstairs instead. So I grabs the ring and I'm out the window and down the drainpipe before they had time to say … (TOP. REF.) Well, within ten seconds there's a rozzer chasing me down the road, so I has to dump it. There was some fat, hairy legged kid collecting money for the Guy, so I slung the ring in his hat. 'Course I went back to collect it - but he'd gone. No - never find him in a month of Saturday's. Saturday's. ….. Well, that's your Sunday, ain't it? Look Lou, there's nothing we can do about it, we'll never see that ring again. Goodbye. And you.

EFFECTS: (RECEIVER DOWN)

MOIRA: There's two blokes to see you.

SIDNEY: What size feet have they got?

MOIRA: Not very big.

SIDNEY: Send them in.

BILL: (APPROACHING) Hiya Sidney.

TONY: Mr. James.

SIDNEY: Well well - the Belles of St. Trinians! Hurry up, I'm busy.

TONY: We've got a job for you.

SIDNEY: Certainly. Who do you want bumped off?

TONY: No, that's not ….

SIDNEY: How do you want it done? Cosh, knife, tommy gun, in the river with the cement feet …… ?

TONY: No, we don't want …..

SIDNEY: Guaranteed job. Half your money back if he's identified.

BILL: Sidney, we don't want anybody bumped off.

SIDNEY: Get in now before the Christmas rush starts.

BILL: We've come about an engagement ring.

SIDNEY: Why didn't you say so. I've got some lovely stuff here. Look at this item. Beautiful ring. Biggest and most expensive diamond in London. Ah, don't drop it!

EFFECTS: (CRASH OF GLASS ON FLOOR)

SIDNEY: Tch, seven years bad luck.

TONY: Look, we don't want to buy a ring, we've already got one, haven't we Bill?

BILL: Yeah.

SIDNEY: Congratulations, I hope you'll both be very happy.

TONY: Thank you, and I'd just like to say on behalf of me and the wif……no - fool. Look - we're not interested in any of your goods.

SIDNEY: Then stop wasting my time. Here's the door.

EFFECTS: (DOOR OPEN)

SIDNEY Go on, get out.

TONY: All Right, we'll take our business somewhere else.

SIDNEY: (OFF MIKE) Good, you take it somewhere else.

TONY: We're going to.

SIDNEY: (FURTHER OFF) Good. And don't bother me again.

TONY: And if anybody else drops another ring in our hat, we won't bring it to you.

EFFECTS: (DOOR SLAMS QUICKLY)

SIDNEY: (RIGHT ON MIKE - QUICKLY IN) Sit down.

TONY: No.

SIDNEY: SIT DOWN!!

TONY: I refuse. You've been very rude to me. Come William, we're going home. And it's no good you sticking that black thing in my stomach, it doesn't frighten me whatever it is.

SIDNEY: It's a gun.

TONY: Is this the chair?

SIDNEY: Now then - where's this ring?

BILL: Right here. I put it on my finger for safe keeping. I'll ….. Just….. Take…. It…..off….. (GRUNTS). Ha ha. It's stuck.

SIDNEY: (CALLS) Charlie, the chopper.

BILL: It's off, It's off!

SIDNEY: Let's have a look at it. Ah, that's it. That's the one. What a smashing stone. Must be worth a couple of monkeys.

TONY: Eh?

SIDNEY: A monkey. Five hundred nicker. Two monkeys - a thousand nicker.

TONY: Two monkeys, a thousand ….. I wouldn't pay it. I can get three brass ones for two and six.

SIDNEY: What are you going to do with this ring?

TONY: Ah. That's what we came about.

BILL: Yeah. We want you to make a paste copy of it.

SIDNEY: This sounds vaguely dishonest.

BILL: I knew you'd be interested. You see, we're going to give the fake one to Tony's girl, and take the real one to the Police and collect the reward money.

SIDNEY: I see. Of course, you er … didn't happen to see who dropped the ring into your hat - or did you?

TONY: No, no, didn't see a thing.

SIDNEY: Good.

TONY: Can you take your gun barrel out of my earhole now please?

SIDNEY: Well I think under the circumstances I might be able to make a copy of the ring for you.

TONY: Ooh, good.

SIDNEY: How does fifty nicker strike you?

TONY: Unconscious.

SIDNEY: All right. Say - forty nicker, if you like it.

TONY: Say thirty - five bob, try and get it.

SIDNEY: Wait here, I'll see what my craftsman says.

EFFECTS: (DOOR OPEN & SHUT)

SIDNEY: Bertha.

MOIRA: 'Allo.

SIDNEY: We're in luck. The ring's turned up. Those two mugs have got it.

MOIRA: I know, I heard 'em. They want a copy made of it.

SIDNEY: That's right. And we're going to be very generous Bertha; we're going to make them <u>two</u> copies of it.

MOIRA: Oh, I get it. An' we keep the real one .....

SIDNEY: While they go to the Police and try and claim five hundred nicker reward on a lump of broken beer bottle soldered onto a brass curtain ring. (LAUGHS) Come, Bertha, to work.

GRAMS: "HANCOCK'S DOING FINE" -

EFFECTS: (FOOTSTEPS ALONG STREET)

BILL: I told you you had nothing to worry about Tub. I knew Sidney would do a good job on that ring.

TONY: Yes, it fooled Moira. I've never seen a girl look so happy. Still, it's only natural really. After all, look what she's got. A ring like that and a man like me.

BILL: Two substitutes for the real thing.

TONY: That's enough. I'm the first to admit I'm not everybody's cup of tea. I realise I haven't got muscles like Stewart Granger.

BILL: You haven't even got muscles like Jean Simmons.

TONY: No, but I've got longer hair. Now where's this Police Station.

BILL: Don't give me that. You know your way better than the Police.

TONY: I do not. I'm always bought here by van.

BILL: Here we are. Bow Street nick.

TONY: Look, I won't come in. I'll stand out here and wait for you.

BILL: You're coming in <u>with</u> me.

TONY: No, I'd rather not. You know me, when I'm in these places I suffer from Claustrophobia.

BILL: What's that?

TONY: Fear of being locked in a confined space.

BILL: Don't be silly. We're on the right side of the law this time - now come on.

TONY: Here, look. There's the notice board. They might have something about the ring up there. Let's see. Wanted. Wanted. Wanted. Wanted. That's a good one of Harry, isn't it? You can see his Dad in him, can't you? Hello, look - Edwardian Fred. I wouldn't have recognised him. He used to be so well dressed. Look at him there. Black mask with brown boots; I ask you.

BILL: Hey Tub, look, there <u>is</u> a reward notice up there.

TONY: Oooh yes. (READS) "Lady Frobisher - Frobisher offers a reward of five hundred pounds for information leading to the recovery of a diamond solitaire engagement ring recently <u>stolen</u> from her Apply Within." That's the <u>one</u>. Five hundred quidlets.

BILL: Yeah. That's nearly enough to keep Diana Dors in shoes for a week. Let's go in and collect it. Got the ring?

TONY: Yes.

BILL: Right, come on.

TONY: I bet they'll be glad to see <u>us</u>.

EFFECTS: (DOOR OPEN)

CONSTABLE: (KENNETH) ……. I tell you Sergeant, if I ever catch those two kids, they won't know what hit 'em. I went tearing down Ludgate Hill in this pram and finished up hitting me head against a brick wall. Ooooh, this lump. I've had to cut a hole in me helmet. I'm just waiting to meet 'em again. I'll know 'em the minute I set eyes on 'em.

TONY: (BRIGHTLY) Good evening.

BILL: Good evening.

TONY: Nasty bump you've got there.

KENNETH: Don't talk to me about it. Somebody's going to pay for that.

TONY: Why, are you selling it?

KENNETH: Ha! Ha! Very funny …… Sir, now what can I do fo…… here, just a minute - I know you, don't I? Where have I seen that face before?

TONY: Oooh, could have been anywhere. Film magazines, stage papers, "Radio Times", notice board outside. Anywhere.

KENNETH: No, no, more recently. Now where was it? It could have been …….wait a minute. Roll your trouser legs up.

TONY: Eh?

KENNETH: Roll 'em up. That's it. Now roll your pants up. I knew it. Those legs. I'd recognise those legs anywhere. Fat hairy things with bumps on.

TONY: I don't understand, I……..

KENNETH: (YELLS) Would you like your pram back?

TONY: Pram?..... Oh, it's you….. Ha! Ha!

BILL: It's him!

TONY: You remember this gent. The bloke we pushed down Ludgate Hill. Ha! Ha! Remember, Bill. Ha! Ha! (ON MIKE) Give me five yards, I'm fatter than you.

KENNETH: You're not going anywhere. You're under arrest.

TONY: What for?

KENNETH: Breaking the law.

TONY: So were you. Doing more than thirty down Ludgate Hill.

BILL: You can't do this to my friend.

KENNETH: Well, well, well, Guy Fawkes. By the time I've finished with you, you'll wish they'd burnt you.

BILL: Now look, take it easy, mac, your bump's throbbing.

TONY: Look officer, we can explain.

BILL: Yeah, you see we came here about the ring.

KENNETH: What ring?

TONY: Lady Frobisher - Frobisher's engagement ring.

KENNETH: That's the one that was stolen.

TONY: That's right - I've got it.

KENNETH: So you confess?

TONY: Yes, I ……no, I didn't pinch it. I found it. Somebody threw it in me Guy Fawkes hat.

BILL: And we've come to collect the reward.

TONY: Five hundred pounds I believe.

BILL: And if you're a good boy we'll give you a cold halfpenny to shove on your lump.

KENNETH: All right, give us the ring. I'll have to show the Inspector first.

EFFECTS: (DOOR SHUT)

TONY: (SINGS) Ah, five hundred quid. Wonderful.

BILL: What are you going to do with the money, Tub?

TONY: Ooh, I don't know. I might set Granny up in business. Won't cost much. A bucket, a leather and a big ladder, she'll be well away.

EFFECTS: (DOOR OPEN)

TONY: Look out, here comes old barge boots.

KENNETH: Ah, gentlemen. We've examined the ring and er….we did say a reward of ten per cent of the value, I believe.

BILL: That's right.

KENNETH: Here you are….a penny each.

TONY: Penny each?

KENNETH: Yus. This ring is worth exactly one and eightpence. Though if you take this diamond down to the off licence, you might get another twopence for it.

BILL: Tub, we've given Moira the wrong ring. She must have the real one.

KENNETH: And now gentlemen, I have much pleasure in placing you both under close arrest on a charge of conspiring to defraud the police.

BILL: Look, officer, it's all a mistake. We have got the ring. There's been a mix - up. Just let me use the 'phone and I'll get Moira to bring it down here.

KENNETH: All right, but in the meantime I'm taking fat boy here in custody. Charlie - Cell No. 3.

TONY: I demand to see my lawyer.

KENNETH: Charlie - Cell No. 4.

GRAMS: "CASANOVA HANCOCK"

BILL: Look, I'm sorry Moira but there it is. That's the whole story, may I drop down dead.

MOIRA: You may. (TEARFUL) What a despicable trick to play on a girl. After I'd made all the arrangements for the wedding. I've even bought myself a new wedding dress. It's got bows on it.

BILL: Good, it'll match Tony's new suit; he's got arrows on his.

MOIRA: I might have known he wouldn't have bought me an expensive engagement ring. He's too mean. I even have to pay when he wants to weigh himself.

BILL: Yeah, and with him it costs twopence.

MOIRA: I refuse to marry him after this. Poor father. He'll be so disappointed. He'd got the rice all ready to throw at him. And he'd spent hours cooking it. Well, where is Convict 99?

BILL: He's in Cell No. 4 with his lawyer.

TONY: (FADE IN) So anyway Butch, there was I in the dock, this was the last time I was up, mark you, and the Judge started summing up. Well, he said some right things about me. Well I was annoyed. I wasn't having it. 'Cos you know me. I'm an easy man to get on with - I hope. But when someone insults me, I'm in there. They can go too far. I can take so much, but I won't be pushed. So I said to the Judge, "Christmas", I said. "I ain't having it." Well, would you? I told him; "I've got me rights. You can't talk about me like that. So watch it." Well, it shook him. His wig nearly fell over his eyes. He didn't know where to put himself. "Let's have a bit of civility", I said. That had him. Flattened him. Collapsed like a pricked balloon. And when it was all over, he looked at me, smiled, and you know what he said? "Fourteen days for contempt of court -".

BILL: Hey. Tub. Here's Moira with the ring. The genuine one. I've told her the whole story.

TONY: Oh, have you? Er…..hallo, Moira.

MOIRA: You nasty, low down, despicable, twisting, crooked, lying, cheating - er…..er….

TONY: Scrounging?

MOIRA: Thank you……scrounging, crawling, miserable, little squirt.

TONY: Yes….I think that about covers the lot. Where's the ring? You have got it, haven't you?

MOIRA: Yes, I've got it.

TONY: Good, let's collect the reward and get me out of here.

MOIRA: Prison's too good for your type. They should go back to the olden days. I'd like to see you put on show in a public place so the people can throw rotten fruit at you.

TONY: Come and see my stage act.

KENNETH: Well, gentlemen, have you got everything sorted out now?

BILL: Yeah, everything's O.K. now officer. We've got the real thing right here.

KENNETH: Oh - have you?

TONY: Yes, so you needn't be so truculent.

KENNETH: Well….I'm sorry….sir, I naturally assumed that…….

TONY: You're not paid to assume. That's the trouble with you lot. As soon as you get a uniform on you think you're everybody.

KENNETH: Well, we all make mistakes sir.

TONY: You shouldn't make mistakes. You're too ready to condemn people. Now, don't let's have so much of it. You keep your place in future. Now take this ring and bring us the reward money.

KENNETH: All right, sir. I'll just check it with the Inspector.

TONY: Well, hurry up.

EFFECTS: (DOOR SHUT)

TONY: Don't know how I kept me hands away from his throat. Did you see the veins standing out on me neck? Look what I did in me blind fury. I almost tore this sheet of paper in half. 'Cos, you know me, I've got the strength of ten men when I'm roused. Lucky for him he stopped when he did.

EFFECTS: (DOOR OPEN)

KENNETH: We've examined the ring sir.

TONY: About time too. You thought you were on a good thing, didn't you? Thought you had another couple of mugs for the bread and water lark, didn't you?

KENNETH: This one's a fake too.

TONY: Grub up!

GRAMS: "HANCOCK RUMBLED" CROSSFADE TO:

EFFECTS: (COURTROOM ATMOSPHERE. RAPPING OF GAVEL)

KENNETH: (JUDGE) Will the prisoners please rise. Anthony Alouitious St. John Hancock the second and William Gladys Kerr.

TONY: I didn't know your second name was Gladys?

BILL: It was that stupid Vicar. He got the babies mixed up. Poor old Harry Trubshawe.

TONY: Who's he?

BILL: The girl next door.

KENNETH: You have been charged with masquerading as children, begging in a public thoroughfare, criminally assaulting a constable in the execution of his duty, stealing a diamond ring by breaking and entering, robbery with violence, and then having the audacity to attempt to defraud the authorities by offering a fake replica in exchange for the reward.

BILL: By the time we've finished serving that lot it won't be worth coming out.

KENNETH: Before I ask the Foreman of the Jury for his verdict, have the defendants anything to say?

TONY: Yes, it's all a mistake. It's a frame up. We're victims of circumstance. We didn't half inch the ring. It must have been the bloke what gave us the fakes. Sidney James. He's your man. He's the criminal. We're innocent. Sidney James - he's the one.

KENNETH; Silence. Will the Foreman of the Jury please rise. You have heard the evidence..and you have considered your verdict. Remember whether these two men go to prison or not depends entirely on you. Do you find them guilty or not guilty.

SIDNEY: Guilty, Your Honour - definitely guilty. Put 'em inside for as long as you like.

TONY: That's <u>him</u> - Sidney James. He's your man. Arrest him. Unhand me. Not fair etc.

BILL: (WITH TONY) We're innocent. Frame up. He's a crook. He's double crossed us. Moira - etc.

CAST: (ALL ARGUE)

GRAMS: "GENEVIEVE HANCOCK"

MOIRA: Hallo father? The verdict's come through. Guilty of course. No it <u>won't</u> be any good using your influence with the Judge. He's already given them as much as he can. No, I don't think Tony will be coming round to see you for a while. ……..Yes, you can take the bear traps out of the front garden. What was the sentence? Four years or ten thousand pounds. They asked for time to pay. Yes. I don't know where they are now. They said they were going into town to try and raise the money….

CROSSFADE TO:

EFFECTS: (STREET NOISES)

TONY: Penny for next year's Guy. Spare a copper lady. Thank you sir. Penny for next year's Guy. Bless you guvnor…

BILL: (WITH HIM) Come along now. Good luck lady… etc.

GRAMS: "HANCOCK THEME" UP & UNDER

ADRIAN: You have been listening to "Hancock's Half Hour", featuring the lad himself, with Moira Lister, Bill Kerr and Sidney James. The Constable and the Judge were played by Kenneth Williams. Incidental music was composed by Wally Stott and recorded by the BBC Revue Orchestra, conducted by Harry Rabinowitz. The script was written by Ray Galton and Alan Simpson - and the programme which was recorded was produced by Dennis Main Wilson.

GRAMS: "HANCOCK THEME" UP & TO END
(SEGUE)
GRAMS: PLAYOUT - TO END